

Talent Search is America's oldest pre-college competition. Beginning in 1942 it was first sponsored by the Westinghouse Foundation. This competition provides an arena in which students are rewarded and recognized for their scientific endeavors.

Alan and William both traveled down a long road to become finalists. First, a team of approximately 100 evaluators, who are experts in their field are assembled to evaluate over 1600 entries. The initial evaluators then recommend approximately 500 entries to the Intel Science Talent Search board of judges. These judges then narrow the field to 300 semi-finalists. The board of judges then has the challenging task of selecting the 40 finalists.

The 40 finalists come to Washington, DC to attend the five-day Science Talent Institute. During these five days students meet with the board of judges to discuss various aspects of their projects. At the end of the Institute a black-tie gala is held in which the top-prize winners are announced.

Alan, who attends Montgomery Blair High School, won fourth place in this competition. He received a \$25,000 scholarship. He competed in the computer sciences by studying ways to optimize five encryption algorithms. His project is entitled "Optimization of Advanced Encryption Standard Candidate Algorithms for the Macintosh G4." The algorithms in his research are being considered for the federal government's Advanced Encryption Standard, which will replace the aging Data Encryption Standard. Alan, who hopes to study computer science or engineering in college, is also involved in many other activities. He is a member of the math and robotics club, plays guitar, takes karate and is an activist in a grass-roots superhighway campaign.

William, who also attends Montgomery Blair High School, was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship and a mobile computer as a finalist. He competed in the biochemistry division. His project studied the formation of fibrils, which are the primary component of the deposits found in the brain of Alzheimer patients. Beta-amyloid proteins combine to form long sheets which stack on top of each other to produce fibrils. He used a combination of experiment and computer modeling to understand and predict the orientation and stacking of beta-amyloid sheets in the fibrils. William, who earned a perfect score of his SATs is very active as president of the Democrats Club and the captain of the It's Academic team. He is also a stream monitor for the Audubon Society and led his school's International Knowledge Master Open team to first place in world competition.

I am extremely proud to count these young men among my constituents. Their hard work and interest in the sciences is an example to their peers. I join with their parents, teachers and friends in congratulating them on their outstanding efforts and awards.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the distinguished honor to welcome the President of the United States to my district of Orlando, Florida.

Together, we attended an event with 4,000 doctors from the American College of Cardiology at the Orange County Convention Center. At this gathering, we discussed the importance of passing a meaningful Patients Bill of Rights which will put doctors and their patients in charge of their medical decisions.

Unfortunately, because I was in Orlando, Florida with the President, I missed Roll Call votes 53, 54, and 55. If I had been present, I would have voted "yea" for all three missed votes.

FEDERAL RECOGNITION PROCEDURES FOR CERTAIN INDIAN GROUPS

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to provide improved administrative procedures for the Federal recognition to certain Indian groups.

Mr. Speaker, I have been working on this issue now for several Congresses. In 1994, the House passed similar legislation but that effort died in the Senate. Last year, the Senate came closer to passing legislation to address this problem than did the House. In an effort to bring the two houses of Congress together, I am introducing a companion bill to S. 504, which was introduced by Senator CAMPBELL on March 9, 2001.

Despite the joint efforts of many Senators and Members of Congress over a period of years, we are still faced with an expensive, unfair process through which Indian groups seeking federal recognition must go. I wish to help address the historical wrongs that the two hundred unrecognized tribes in this nation have faced. This bill streamlines the existing procedures for extending federal recognition to Indian tribes, removes the bureaucratic maze of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and also provides due process, equity and fairness to the whole problem of Indian recognition.

Mr. Speaker, a broad coalition of unrecognized Indian tribes has advocated reform for years for several reasons. First, the BIA's budget limitations over the years have, in fact, created a certain bias against recognizing new Indian tribes. Second, the process has always been too expensive, costing some tribes well over \$500,000, and most of these tribes just do not have this kind of money to spend. I need not remind my colleagues of the fact that Native American Indians today have the worst statistics in the nation when it comes to education, economic activity and social development. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the recognition process for the First Americans has been an embarrassment to our government and certainly to the people of America. If only the American people can ever feel and realize the pain and suffering that the Native Americans have long endured, there would probably be another American revolution.

Mr. Speaker, the process to provide federal recognition to Native American tribes simply takes too long. I acknowledge the recent reaffirmation of a federal trust relationship for the King Salmon Tribe (Alaska), the Shoonaq' Tribe of Kodiak (Alaska), and the Lower Lake Rancheria (California), and the recognition of

Chinook Indian Tribe/Chinook Nation of Washington. This is a step in the right direction, but recognition for the Chinooks took 22 years, and the other three tribes were somehow "overlooked" by the BIA for a number of years. I thank former Assistant Secretary Kevin Gover for acknowledging this "egregious oversight", and then correcting it. Regrettably, even at the current rate of recognition, it will take the Bureau of Indian Affairs many decades to resolve questions on all tribes which have expressed an intent to be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, the current process does not provide petitioners with due process—in particular, the opportunity to cross examine witnesses and on-the-record hearings. The same experts who conduct research on a petitioner's case are also the "judge and jury" in the process!

In 1996, in the case of *Greene v. Babbitt*, 943 F. Supp. 1278 (W.Dist. Wash.), the federal court found that the current procedures for recognition were "marred by both lengthy delays and a pattern of serious procedural due process violations. The decision to recognize the Samish tribe took over twenty-five years, and the Department has twice disregarded the procedures mandated by the APA, the Constitution, and this Court," (p. 1288). Among other statements contained in Judge Thomas Zilly's opinion were: "The Samish people's quest for federal recognition as an Indian tribe has a protracted and tortuous history . . . made more difficult by excessive delays and governmental misconduct." (p. 1281) And again at pp. 1288–1289, "Under these limited circumstances, where the agency has repeatedly demonstrated a complete lack of regard for the substantive and procedural rights of the petitioning party, and the agency's decision maker has failed to maintain her role as an impartial and disinterested adjudicator . . ." Sadly, the Samish's administrative and legal conflict—much of which was at public expense—could have been avoided were it not for a 30-year-old clerical error of the Bureau of Indian Affairs which inadvertently left the Samish Tribe's name off the list of recognized tribes in Washington.

With a record like this, it is little wonder that many tribes have lost faith in the Government's recognition procedures. Former President Clinton acknowledged the problem. In a 1996 letter to the Chinook Tribe of Washington, the President wrote, "I agree that the current federal acknowledgment process must be improved." He said that some progress has been made, "but much more must be done."

Mr. Speaker, the legislation I am introducing today addresses most the above concerns by establishing an independent three member commission which consider petitions for recognition. This legislation will provide tribes with the opportunity for public, trial-type hearings and sets strict time limits for action on pending petitions. Previous bills I have introduced on this issue were an attempt to streamline and make more objective the federal recognition criteria by aligning them with the legal standards in place prior to 1978, as laid out by the father of Indian Law, Felix S. Cohen in 1942.

Because some have expressed concern that prior bills would open the door for more tribes to conduct gambling operations on new reservations, the bill I introduce today will codify the existing criteria used for recognition rather than change to revised criteria under which